

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, EAID, EFIN, IBRD, EG
SUBJ: EGYPTIANS PREPARE FOR IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP-

REF: (A) CAIRO 12926, (B) CAIRO 12496

1. OVER PAST TWO WEEKS, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY PLAN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP AHMAD ABU ISMAIL (FORMER MINFIN) HAS BEEN REVIEWING SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF EGYPT'S FIVE YEAR PLAN. EMBOFF TALKED TO DR. ABU ISMAIL RECENTLY ABOUT COMMITTEE'S WORK. CHAIRMAN EXPLAINED THAT PA SPEAKER MAREI HAD ASKED HIM "SEVERAL WEEKS AGO" TO BEGIN JOB OF REVIEWING AND APPROVING FIVE YEAR PLAN ON EXPEDITIOUS BASIS. MAREI EXPLAINED THAT CABINET WANTED PEOPLES ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR PLAN PRIOR TO JUNE MEETING OF IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP. GOE STRATEGY, ACCORDING TO DR. ABU ISMAIL, WOULD BE TO SEEK ENDORSEMENT FIVE YEAR PLAN BY CONSULTATIVE GROUP AS WHOLE, INCLUDING "COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDS" FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS.

2. ABU ISMAIL DUTIFULLY BEGAN PROCEEDINGS AT REQUEST OF SPEAKER, WITH VIEW TOWARD EARLY JUNE APPROVAL. HE TOLD EMBOFF, HOWEVER, HE IS FINDING MORE AND MORE IN-

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CONSISTENCIES AND PROBLEMS WHICH NEED TO BE WORKED OUT. FOR INSTANCE, CHAIRMAN TOLD EMBOFF HE AWARE OF LARGE PROJECT FOR TEXTILES IN AMARIYYA FREE ZONE (OUTSIDE ALEXANDRIA) WHICH IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED IN FIVE YEAR PLAN (SEE SEPTTEL). PROJECT IS VALUED AT ONE BILLION DOLLARS. ABU ISMAIL EXCLAIMED IN FRUSTRATION THAT EXISTENCE OF SUCH DEFICIENCIES CAST DOUBT ON

WHOLE PLAN.

3. CHAIRMAN SAID HE HAS ALREADY INFORMED A VERY UNHAPPY SPEAKER THAT JOB CANNOT SERIOUSLY BE COMPLETED BEFORE JUNE MEETING.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE LACK OF PA APPROVAL, IT WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT FOR GOE TO PUSH AHEAD WITH REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT OF FIVE YEAR PLAN AND REQUEST FOR COMMITMENTS TO FUND THAT PLAN. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE DR. ABU ISMAIL WILL FIND WHEREWITHALL TO COMPLETE REVIEW AND GIVE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY PA APPROVAL IF PM SALEM SO INSTRUCTS. MATTHEWS

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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